

REMARKS

A Continuation Application is being filed from a pending case having a serial number 09/893,025 (pending case) which is under a Final Office Action dated April 7, 2003 (Final Office Action). The pending case is being abandoned. This Amendment amends the claims for the Continuation Application.

Claims 1-35 were originally filed with the pending case. Claims 34 and 35 were withdrawn in the pending case due to a restriction requirement.

With this Amendment, claims 1-33 (as originally filed) are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claim 34 is being amended. In addition, Claims 36-69 are being added. The specification is being amended to correct an informality. No new matter is being added.

Appreciation is expressed to Examiner Shouxiang Hu for the Examiner's Interview with Applicants' Attorney David G. Dolezal on June 30, 2003. During the interview, the claims were discussed.

In Section 2 of the Final Office Action, the claims were objected to for various terms. Regarding the term "non-electrically conductive region," Applicants respectfully submit that this term is appropriate. The term "non" modifies the phrase "electrically conductive," and not just the term "electrically."

Regarding the term "contiguous with," Applicants' respectfully point to its usage in the specification at page 7, lines 1-2 as an example in describing the embodiment of Figure 1.

Claims of the pending application stood rejected in the Final Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Depetro *et al.* ("Depetro" U.S. Patent 5,852,314).

In contrast to the present invention, Depetro does not disclose or suggest "forming by a non LOCal Oxidation of Silicon (LOCOS) process, a non-electrically conductive region substantially located below a substantially planar plane defined by the surface of the substrate," all as recited in claim 34. Accordingly, claim 34 is allowable over Depetro.

In contrast to the present invention, Depetro does not disclose or suggest forming a non-electrically conductive region, wherein the forming further includes etching a trench into the surface of the substrate and filling the trench with a material, all as recited in claim 65. Accordingly, claim 65 is allowable over Depetro.

In contrast to the present invention, Depetro does not disclose or suggest forming a non-electrically conductive region, wherein the forming further includes implanting a dose of oxygen into the surface at a substrate at location corresponding to non-electrically conductive region, all as recited in claim 69. Accordingly, claim 69 is allowable over Depetro.

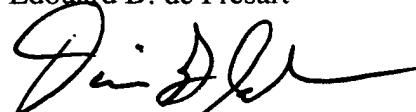
Each dependent claim in this application depends from an independent claim and is therefore allowable for at least this reason.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

If Applicant has overlooked any additional fees, or if any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit or debit Deposit Account 502117.

Please forward all correspondence to:
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Respectfully Submitted
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